(a) whether cotton growers of various States, including Gujarat are not getting remunerative price for their crop and a large number of farmers are reported to have committed suicide;

(b) if so, the number of such cases during the last two years; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The cotton growers of States are generally getting remunerative prices. Crop-wise Information on suicides is not maintained. However, the Gujarat State cooperative Cotton Federation Ltd. (GUJCOT) have informed that according to their information there have been no report of farmers having committed suicide on this account.

(c) The following steps have been taken:—

(i) To protect the interest of the farmers, the Government announces each year the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cotton and requires its procurement by the Cotton Corporation of India Limited (CCI) in case market price of Cotton falls or touches MSP. The CCI have informed that in order to stabilize market prices during 2001-02 season a total of 8.99 lakh bales of cotton of 170 kgs. each have been procured in cotton growing States.

(ii) The government has increased the basic import duty on raw cotton from 5 per cent to 10 per cent which is expected discourage cotton imports.

(iii) The Government has also brought export of raw cotton under Open General Licence (OGL). This is expected to help the Indian farmers to fetch better prices for their produce in the international market.

Subsidy to M.P. for kharif crops

†1767. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drought affected areas in Madhya pradesh have been determined on the basis of Anawari of kharif crops as per the scarcity

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

manual; if so, whether rabi crops have also been affected in other districts due to decrease in the area cultivation of rabi crop, low rain fall and non-availability of water on time;

(b) whether Government are formulating any scheme to provide benefit of input subsidy and other grant-in-aid to the State for the affected areas of rabi crop, besides drought affected areas; and

(c) if so, by when, the input subsidy would be provided to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As reported by the State Government, Anawari of rabi crop was also carried out. The results of this exercise have not been communicated to the Central Government.

(b) and (c) Agriculture input subsidy is already admissible from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and State Government is competent to sanction it in suitable cases.

Insurance claims of farmers in Andhra Pradesh

1768. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that insurance claims of more than 8,000 farmers from Adilabad District of Andhra Pradesh, for damage to cotton crop, have not been settled;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in setting their claims; and

(c) what steps are being taken to settle their claims, at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) has not been directed to settle these claims immediately in respect of cotton crop for 38 Mandals of Adiiabad district of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Settlement of these claims were delayed because correct and revised yield data based on which the admissible claims are calculated by the IA was received from the State very late.

(c) The IA has already been directed to Sttle the admissible claims expeditiously.